

## Office of the Speaker South Carolina House of Representatives

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ROBERT W. HARRELL, JR. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

June 15, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

## Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The purpose of this letter is to request full and fair consideration for the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

One way to improve lives and the economy is to encourage investments in our nation's infrastructure, including the communications networks that tie us together. It is my understanding that AT&T's merger with T-Mobile will mean a significant private investment of billions of dollars in the next generation of wireless broadband service, and AT&T intends to make this network accessible to more than ninety seven percent of our citizens.

When all citizens of South Carolina have access to high-speed Internet service, it will go a long way in bridging the digital divide that affects virtually every aspect of life. Times are changing quickly, and access to high-speed Internet can lead to improvements in the lives of our citizens by increasing educational opportunities for our workforce, providing better access to medical technologies and enhancing all aspects of our businesses, large and small, leading to higher employment and economic growth.

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We need to ensure that we have appropriate levels of public policy and regulation to stimulate this investment and growth. I hope you will provide AT&T and T-Mobile with full and fair consideration for their merger request. I believe it represents a big step forward in building a high-tech infrastructure for our future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Harrell, Jr. Speaker of the House

RWHjr:jp

CC: Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell Commissioner Mignon Clyburn